

Testimony of Tracey Rullo, RN  
In opposition to SB 1128  
An Act Concerning Influenza Immunizations for health Care Employees

Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2013

I want to thank the Public Health Committee for given me the opportunity to testify in Opposition to SB 1128

I am Tracey Rullo; I have been a registered nurse in ICU as well as Multispecialist for over 20 years without ever receiving a flu shot or being sick from the flu. I believe it is our choice as to whether we should or should not get the flu shot. This winter I chose to not to get the flu shot as I do every year. I remained healthy without any flu like symptoms.

This flu season is a perfect example as to why the vaccine is not even effective. Many, if not, all of our patients admitted with the flu did have the flu vaccine and I am sure those numbers are available from Infectious Disease. In addition, the visitors were not required to stay out of hospital if they did not get the vaccine. Many came into the hospital with signs and symptoms. They ignored the request by Danbury Hospital to stay home.

One great example is a patient I had seen two days earlier was discharged and readmitted and walking down the hall with a mask on .I asked him why he was back in. His response was "I have the flu, my wife gave it to me! " He was wearing a mask and she was not.

I was told I need to get a shot or wear a mask to prevent the patients from getting the flu from me, but who is preventing the patients, staff or other visitors from getting the flu from the visitors. Staff with the vaccine did get the flu as well as came to work sick. This also includes physicians.

While the vaccine is apparently only effective for 3 months there is also research being done to show the flu is prevalent all year long we just do not complete the screening which would add to our argument that we should NOT be required to get a vaccine that has not been proven to actually be effective!

What is most effective is good hand washing technique, respiratory care, and staying away from hospitals if symptomatic. The flu vaccine alone will not stop the flu.

I urge to allow me to keep my choice and oppose SB 1128. Thank you.

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